

Claims 1, 5, 6, 13, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1, 5, 6, 13, and 14 are amended to address this rejection.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 13, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,462,493 to Simpson. The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 5, 6, 13, and 14, as presently recited, are not anticipated by Simpson.

Simpson does not disclose a friction surface disposed between a second blade shoe portion and a sliding face of a base having a coefficient of friction different than a coefficient of friction of the sliding face of the base effective to damp vibrations of the tensioner, as presently recited in claim 1. Simpson also does not disclose damping vibrations of a tensioner with a friction surface having a coefficient of friction different from a coefficient of friction of a base sliding surface provided between a second portion of the shoe and the base sliding surface, as presently recited in claim 13.

To the contrary, Simpson merely discloses a lower shoe 110 having a distal end 112 slidable upon a stationary stop 146. Simpson does not disclose that there is a friction surface positioned between the distal end of the lower shoe and the stationary stop, and certainly does not disclose a friction surface disposed between the distal end and the stationary stop have a coefficient of friction different than the coefficient of friction of the stationary stop for damping vibrations of the tensioner.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 13, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,425,680 to Young in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,984,815 to Baddaria and 5,045,031 to Thomey. The Applicant respectfully submits that

claims 1, 5, 6, 13, and 14, as presently recited, are not unpatentable over Young in view of Baddaria and Thomey.

Neither Young, Baddaria, or Thomey, individually or in combination, teach or suggest a friction surface disposed between a second blade shoe portion and a sliding face of a base having a coefficient of friction different than a coefficient of friction of the sliding face of the base effective to damp vibrations of the tensioner, as presently recited in claim 1. Further, Young, Baddaria, and Thomey, either alone or in combination, also do not teach or suggest damping vibrations of a tensioner with a friction surface having a coefficient of friction different from a coefficient of friction of a base sliding surface provided between a second portion of a blade shoe and the base sliding surface, as presently recited in claim 13.

Indeed, Thomey is directed to an entirely different type of tensioner that does not even use blade springs. Instead of using a blade spring to urge a shoe against a chain, Thomey uses a compression spring 30 to rotate a pivot arm 28 about a pivot 32 to tension a belt 12 using a pulley 24 attached to the pivot arm.

As the Examiner recognizes, Young does not teach a friction surface disposed between a second blade shoe portion and a sliding face of a base. Likewise, Baddaria also does not teach a friction surface disposed between a second blade shoe portion and a sliding face of a base.

In addition, both Young and Baddaria disclose the use of blade springs to bias a blade tensioner. There is no teaching or suggestion in either Young or Baddaria to use compression springs to bias the blade shoes. In fact, both Young and Baddaria teach away from the use of compression springs by the use of blade springs, as Young and Baddaria rely upon blade springs to deform their shoes into arcuate shapes and against

the chain. There is no disclosure in either Young or Baddaria of how the compression spring of Thomey could be used to deform the shoes into arcuate shapes.

Given the differences between the blade tensioners of Young and Baddaria, and the compression spring and pivot arm assembly of Thomey, there is no motivation for their combination provided for their combination.

For the reasons set forth above, claims 1, 5, 6, 13, and 14 are believed to be allowable. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 5, 6, 13, and 14 is respectfully requested.

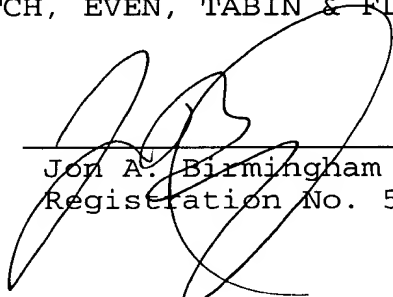
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1 and 13 have been amended as follows:

1. A blade tensioner for applying tension to a chain, the blade tensioner comprising:

a base having a sliding face;

a blade shoe having a first face and an opposing second face, the first face having a chain sliding face against which the chain is slidable, a first blade shoe portion pivotably supported by the base, and a second blade shoe portion freely slidable relative to [on] the base sliding face;

a plurality of blade springs disposed on the second face of the blade shoe for applying a biasing force to the blade shoe; and

a friction surface disposed between the second blade shoe portion and the sliding face of the base having a coefficient of friction different than a coefficient of friction of the sliding face of the base [providing a coefficient of friction therebetween] effective to damp vibrations of the tensioner.

13. A method of applying tension to a chain with a blade tensioner, the method comprising:

providing a base having a sliding surface formed thereon;

pivotably attaching a first portion of a blade shoe to the base, the blade shoe having a chain sliding face and an

opposing face opposite the chain sliding face, the blade shoe having a second portion slidable [upon] relative to the base sliding surface;

biasing the blade shoe against the chain with at least one blade spring disposed on the opposing face of the blade shoe;

damping vibrations of the tensioner with a friction surface having a coefficient of friction different from a coefficient of friction of the base sliding surface provided between the second portion of the shoe and the base sliding surface [providing a coefficient of friction therebetween].